

FIREARM SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

Owning a firearm does not guarantee protection to you or your family, rather it has been shown to increase the risk of death and injury among family members through intimate partner violence and suicide. If however you desire to own a firearm, the following are steps to keep your family safe, such as gun safes and trigger locks that reduce the chance of a firearm from getting in the hands of an inquisitive child or depressed, or angry teen or adult.

Before you Obtain a Gun

- Consider more effective and less dangerous ways to keep your family safe, such as burglar alarms, locking gates, window locks, dogs, etc.
- Remember, that a gun in the home is more likely to be used kill a family member in the home, or used for suicide, than used for self defense.
- Remember, that homes that have guns are 5-times as likely to experience a suicide of a family member, than homes without a gun.
- Remember, that gun possession is associated with violent attitudes, increased likelihood of being involved in and starting fights, and prior delinquent or illegal behavior.
- Be properly trained to use it safely.

Responsibility of Owning a Gun

- Remember children have difficulty knowing whether a gun is real or a toy. Therefore guns should always be locked up in a place where children do not have access.
- Guns should be always be stored unloaded and in a locked place such as a gun safe.
- Bullets should always be locked in a place separate from where guns are stored.
- Trigger Locks are recommended as an additional safety measure for unloaded firearms.

Teach Your Children About the Dangers of Gun's

- Talk with your children to teach them that guns are very dangerous and they must never touch them without your permission.
- Talk with your children to let them know that if they eve find a gun to never touch it and tell an adult.
- Tell your children that if they know of someone who is carrying a gun at school to tell an adult.
- Talk with your children to teach them that the violence on television and movies are not real and that violence in real-life is where people can get hurt.

*For more information on firearm safety and gun laws in California, visit our website at
www.lapublichealth.org/ivpp